

Northwest Girlchoir – AMORE – 2022-2023 Goals and Expectations

Karen Bruno, teacher-conductor – karen@northwestgirlchoir.org

MUSIC EDUCATION

At the Amore level, choristers perform sophisticated repertoire for treble voices. The independence and skills necessary to learn difficult 3- and 4-part music (a cappella and with various instruments) and complex poetic texts (in English and varying language from all parts of the world) appear in all aspects of Amore's artistic musical approach. Regular, at-home practice solidifies and supports the learning that takes place during weekly rehearsals.

Amore increases the demands for consistent, healthy, and embodied vocal tone and a mastery of high school-level music reading skills. While voices are still maturing and changing throughout the high school ages, responsible and engaged singing (physiological and psychological) is expected from all Amore choristers at all times. Expanding upon musical skills, melodic-based, rhythmic-based, and rote learning styles are employed, combined, and perfected. An Amore chorister will be fully prepared to excel in collegiate and adult choral ensembles upon completion of high school.

In addition, Amore takes a liberal arts approach to musical learning. At this level, singers are ready to make connections between art forms, deepen their understanding of historical or cultural experiences that directly relate to the music and its performance, deeply explore texts and translations, and more intentionally study the architecture of the music they perform.

PERFORMANCE PREPARATION

Amore choristers share their love of singing with communities near and far as Northwest Girlchoir's premiere large ensemble; they will be tasked with representing Northwest Girlchoir on the local, regional, and world stage through season concerts, community events, cultural exchanges, master classes, and tours. Participation in performances is expected and regular rehearsal attendance is required from each chorister. At this level of musicianship, singers commit to one another that they will arrive prepared to each rehearsal and maintain focus and discipline throughout the season. Excessive absences will lead to disqualification from performances.

While concerts are exhilarating, it's important to note that they are not the sole reason to explore and learn musical repertoire. The process of learning and singing together is a fundamental focus of Northwest Girlchoir at every level; the concert is a time to share what we have learned and to present ourselves professionally in a public space.

COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP

Being part of Northwest Girlchoir requires a commitment from both the singer and their family. Regular attendance at rehearsals and performances are crucial elements in building a community of musicians and performers. Singers and artistic staff are co-creators in the weekly process, and regular practice is essential. When a singer commits to Northwest Girlchoir, the singer and family join a legacy of choral excellence and commit to the "team" of singers in that choir. Each voice matters, and each rehearsal is filled with learning opportunities that cannot be replicated or easily "made up" when absent.

Amore singers achieve a high level of independence and interdependence, which are markers of musical maturity. Within the choir, Amore choristers build connection and community by bringing their unique strengths and challenges to rehearsals that build toward a common goal.

Amore graduates represent Northwest Girlchoir's strong history and enter their adult lives as leaders, artists, and socially responsible, kind-hearted citizens of the world.